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MISSILES ACCORD IS DOUBTED BY U.S.

Chance of Persuading Soviet
Held Only 'Fair at Best'

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Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, April 7—The United States has told six Atlantic allies that it sees "only a fair chance at best" of winning agreement from the Soviet Union to halt the deployment of antiballistic missile defense systems, authoritative sources said today.

The question arose during the two-day closed-door meeting of the seven-nation Nuclear Planning Group established by the North Atlantic Treaty Organization last December to enable Europe to share more fully in joint nuclear defense with the United States. The meeting ended today.

President Johnson, meeting with the defense ministers of Britain, Canada, West Germany, Italy, the Netherlands and Turkey after they had concluded their formal meeting, told them the session demonstrated that the United States was "ready to share" with its allies "the full range of information and analysis related to nuclear planning."

He reaffirmed that the United States believed that joint planning was "the best guarantee of an effective deterrent."

At a news briefing, Mr. Johnson also asserted that the success of NATO had opened the way for building bridges to Eastern Europe and relaxing East-West tensions in Europe.

Meeting Called 'Historic'

The question of antiballistic missile defenses was a major item on the agenda of the meeting, which the President called "historic" in its importance to the alliance. He thus rebutted Republican criticism that NATO faced an "overwhelming crisis."

After hearing an extensive briefing on antiballistic missile systems, the European defense ministers were reported by authoritative sources to have postponed any decision on whether the alliance itself needed an antiballistic missile defense system to match the one being installed by the Soviet Union. Defense Secretary Robert S. McNamara was reported to have told the ministers that such a system would cost \$3-billion to \$12-billion if it were installed in Europe.

His briefing, well-placed sources said, included a summary of efforts to induce the Kremlin to call a moratorium in the de-

ployment of such defense systems and thereby avoid another costly spiral in the arms race.

Authoritative sources said Mr. McNamara had given the allied ministers Washington's estimate of the chance of persuading the Soviet Union to halt deployment of such a system—which these sources characterized as "only fair at best."

Broader Talks Sought

The United States raised the issue with the Soviet Union several weeks ago and Moscow's response was to ask Washington to broaden the discussion to include offensive as well as defensive missile systems. In the NATO meetings here, the United States promised "to keep its allies fully advised" as these discussions with the Soviet Union progress, according to a conference communiqué.

The communiqué also disclosed that the nuclear planning group had called for a study by a group of experts on a Turkish proposal to relax American controls over nuclear land mines to speed their use in event of attack. The study group is to report to the next meeting of the nuclear planning group to be held in Ankara, Turkey, in September.

German Paper Discussed

The group also discussed a German paper on the "role of host countries" in the planning and use of nuclear weapons in Europe. There has been widespread discussion in Germany concerning a possible veto over the use of nuclear weapons in the possession of American and other allied forces stationed in Germany, as well as over the use of nuclear weapons in the possession of German forces themselves.

The group also heard a discussion by Denis Healey, the British Defense Minister, of a possible redistribution of allied tactical nuclear weapons in Europe. Officials said such a reallocation would probably be necessary as a result of the French withdrawal from the integrated NATO command structure and the removal of American strike aircraft, capable of carrying nuclear weapons, from French soil over the last three or four years.

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